Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada | Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada

International Scientific Cooperation (ISC) Bulletin, February 2009, volume 5, no 1

Table of Contents

In this Issue:

- The Canadian Embassy Interested in the China-Canada cooperation in agricultural S&T
- Taiwan willing to fund scientific training in AAFC
- Chilean Embassy in Canada Fosters AAFC Research
- A Successful International Cooperation: EuroPrevall
- The international scientific cooperation is a key factor of success for leading edge companies

For more information please visit: International Scientific Cooperation

---

The Canadian Embassy Interested in the China-Canada cooperation in agricultural S&T

On January 8, 2009, His Excellency Robert Wright, Canada's Ambassador to China, visited the China-Canada Science and Innovation Centre (CCSIC) on Eco-Agriculture and Environment. This centre is one of six, that together, comprise the Canada-China Science and Innovation Platform for agriculture. Mr. Bowei Liu, the Chinese Coordinator of the centre, gave a presentation that introduced the on-going and developing projects. Mr. Wright had high praise for this kind of cooperation that promotes and strengthens scientific and trade relations between the two countries. He indicated that Canada's climate and agri-environment are similar to those of the Shenyang Region and he could see the progress and benefits resulting from the joint collaboration in corn, oats, and dairy. He stated that the Canadian Embassy will continue to support agricultural cooperation with China, given the significant and long-term benefits it provides for both China and Canada.

Photo: His Excellency Robert Wright's meeting with Bowei Liu.

Contact: Jianqiang Zhou

Taiwan willing to fund scientific training in AAFC

The collaboration between AAFC and the National Science Council (NSC) of Taipei is reaching a new milestone with the launch of the NSC-AAFC Postdoctoral Internship Program. Information is available in both Chinese and English at the NSC web site. Under this program, NSC willing award up to 10 scholarships each year. These scholarships will cover travel and living expenses while AAFC will provide the facilities, training and research costs in Canada.

The NSC is responsible for S&T development and manages funding for academic research and international science programs. The first discussions between AAFC and NSC began in Taiwan April, 2008. On September 16, 2008 a delegation lead by Deputy Minister Lih Chen met with Marc Fortin in Ottawa to discuss further collaboration, training opportunities and mechanisms between the two organizations. The Canadian Trade Office in Taipei signed a MOU with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in November, 2008. This MOU sets the framework for Taiwanese graduate students and scientists to receive agriculture training at AAFC. A similar MOU is on-going with the National Research Council of Canada for over 10 years which allow Taiwanese students and scientists to come to their laboratories. Taiwan is Canada's 10th most important market for agriculture and food products, and the fifth agri-food market for Canada in Asia.

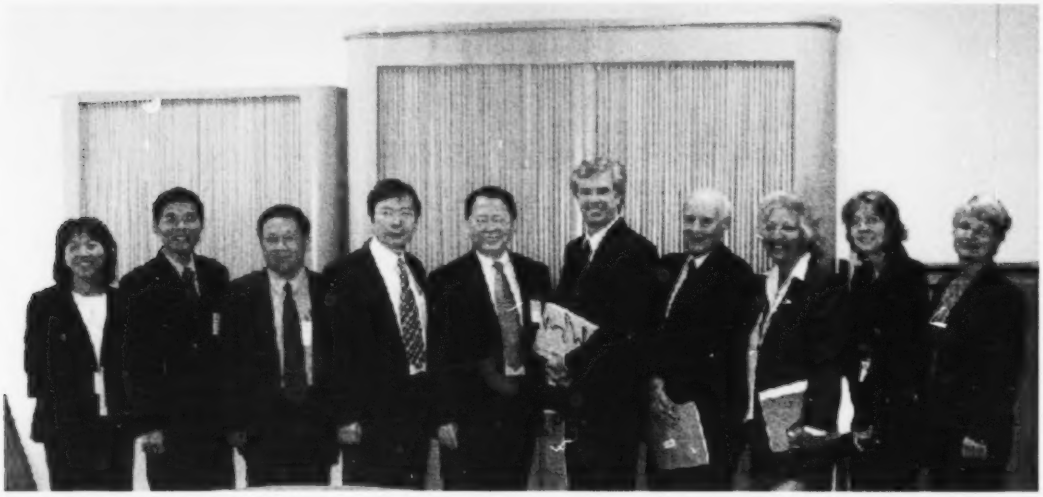

Photo: Jennifer Hu, Ting-An Wang, Ching-Ray Chang, Chien-Hong Chen, Lih J. Chen, Marc Fortin, Yvon Martel, Kian Fadaie, Johanne Boisvert and Lianne Dwyer.

Contact: Johanne Boisvert

Chilean Embassy in Canada Fosters AAFC Research

AAFC and the Chilean Embassy in Canada are working together to encourage postgraduate students (PhD and Masters) and postdoctorate fellows (PDFs) to complete internships at AAFC Research Centres. The Chilean government scholarship program mainly covers the round trip air travel and stipend in Canada. AAFC provides the facilities and operation costs for the research project.

The first call for proposals to host Chilean students and PDFs, starting in the 2009 fiscal year, has been very well received by AAFC scientists. About 18 proposals were submitted for postgraduate students and 49 proposals for PDFs. Description of the proposals is posted on the website of the Chilean Embassy in Canada. The Embassy will continue to encourage Chilean students and scientists to conduct their research with AAFC scientists.

Canada and the Republic of Chile have enhanced the global partnership with the signing of the Canada-Chile Partnership Framework (CCPF) in Chile in July 2007 and the signing of an MOU on Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation in Canada in October 2008. Priority areas in agriculture and food research were jointly identified during the recent visit of representatives from the Chilean Institute of Agricultural Research (INIA) to AAFC on October 27-29, 2008. Indeed, Drs Ernesto Labra Lillo, Vice-director Research and Development and Alicia Bruna director International collaboration, both from INIA, with Mr. Hector Vera, Scientific and Education Attaché, Embassy of Chile in Canada, have visited the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration (PFRA), two AAFC research Centres at Ottawa and Saskatoon, and met directly or by videoconference with several scientists woking in area of mutual interests. INIA is firstly interested in the work done by AAFC in reuse of animal residus in intensive animal production systems, precision farming and potatoes.

Photo: Carlos Monreal, Alan Schlater, Ernesto Labra Lillo, Hector Vera, Alicia Bruno, Yvon Martel, Sonia Vieira and Robert Patzer.

Contact: Johanne Boisvert

A Successful International Cooperation: EuroPrevall

In 2005, the Foundation of Governors (now called INITIA) organized a symposium on Food Allergens in St-Hyacinthe with the participation of Dr Jean Michel Wal, a research scientist from INRA (Institut national de la recherche agronomique). This was the occasion for AAFC to be made aware of an European project called EuroPrevall with the objective of studying the patterns and prevalence of food allergies across Europe.

At that point, Dr. Joyce Boye became convinced that the small AAFC research program on allergens could favorably be leveraged by collaborating with European countries. To become an active partner to EuroPrevall was, at that time, a challenge for a Canadian scientist. There was a lot required to prepare the initial contacts and research project contributions for EuroPrevall, progressing from a confidential agreement to a final research agreement which was time consuming, at first, and certainly complex.

Three years later, "the benefits are very obvious" says Joyce Boye. Joining EuroPrevall opened up the collaboration with more than 60 countries. This has been very beneficial and has further allowed AAFC's participation to expand rapidly to other networks from around the world. The small Canadian program has become a world-wide connection providing access to the world's best cutting edge science as it develops. This has been a success scientifically.

Photo: Joyce Boye and Yvon Martel

Contact: Yvon Martel

The international scientific cooperation is a key factor of success for leading edge companies

During her internship at the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau, Mrs Clélia Martrès submitted an analysis entitled "La science et l'innovation: moteur de la coopération scientifique internationale" [Science and Innovation: mechanism for international scientific cooperation] to obtain her Master's degree in public administration, organizational analysis and development. The objective of the analysis was to show that science and innovation resulting from cooperation can enable Canada to be more competitive in international science. After studying the companies that had an impact on the international stage, the author concluded that the success factors they had in common were: 1) market studies; 2) research and development; 3) solutions tailored to problems; 4) a good choice of key players to cooperate, and 5) management. The report recommends generating interest among players to cooperate at the national level and creating an atmosphere conducive to the development of international cooperation. The reference is: Martrès Clélia. 2008. La science et l'innovation: moteur de la coopération scientifique internationale. Rapport de stage présenté à l'École Nationale d'Administration Publique en vue de l'obtention de la maîtrise en administration publique analyse et développement des organisations. Montréal, août 2008, 103 pages.

Photo: Clélia Martrès

Contact: Yvon Martel

Date Modified: 2009-02-13